

as one of the 30 inspiring Latinas and Latinos who have shaped the United States in “Nuestra América,” published by the Smithsonian Institution. She is the honoree of the 35th Hispanic Heritage Foundation—2022 STEM Award.

By pioneering many firsts during her career, Lt. Col. Custodio has shattered stereotypes and served as a powerful role model for those aspiring to become a pilot. As a pioneer who overcame tremendous challenges to excel in a male-dominated profession, she gained essential life insights and perspectives that she shares with everyone, especially women working to achieve their dreams.

Lt. Col. Custodio lives in San Antonio, Texas, with her husband of 48 years, Edwin, and they have two children, Marcia and Edwin II, and one grandson, Jedi.

Madam Speaker—I am proud to recognize a member of the San Antonio community who is a shining example of our country's strength in diversity. Lt. Col. Custodio is an inspiration to the Latino community and continues to display an immense commitment to public service. I'm grateful that her knowledge and experience have helped usher in the next generation of military leaders. I wish her and her family the best.

HONORING MICHAEL “MIKABEN”
BENJAMIN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, as a congressional representative of the Haitian community in South Florida, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Haitian music icon Michael “Mikaben” Benjamin.

Born in 1981 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti to legendary Haitian singer Lionel and famed doctor Roseline Benjamin, Michael was just 16 years old when he was introduced to the Haitian music scene with his performance of “Nwèl Tristès” alongside his sister Melodie Benjamin. He released his first album Vwayaj that following year, which featured one of his most popular hits, “Ou Pati.” The success of “Ou Pati” would pave his musical journey as a singer, composer, and producer. He would go on to release more hits such as “Ayiti Se,” “Ti Pam Nan,” “Fe Lapli,” and “Marry Me.” He would also sing and produced hits such as “Fanm Sa Move” and “Baby I Missed You” for Carimi and hits for other global music acts including Kai, Enposib, Harmonik, Kreyol La, T-Vice, Karizma, Alan Cave, Ruthshelle Guillaume, Leila Chicot, J-Perry, and Lionel Benjamin, his father. Mikaben's music transcended genres and cultures. Along with his musical accomplishments, Mikaben will be remembered for being a loving son, husband, father, patriot, mentor, and philanthropist.

He empowered many Haitian children through his Ti Souf Foundation. The image of him draped in the Haitian flag while performing with Carimi, moments before his passing, is indelibly etched in the minds and hearts of millions of Haitians and others around the world.

On October 15, 2022, Mikaben suddenly collapsed while walking off stage after performing his hit song “Ou Pati.” He was later pronounced dead despite medical intervention.

He was performing in front of a sold-out audience at a reunion concert for Carimi, a famed Haitian band, that was held at Eastern Paris? Accor Arena. Mikaben is survived by his pregnant wife Vanessa Fanfan, his two children, and his parents, Lionel and Roseline Benjamin. He is also survived by his two siblings and countless fans from around the world.

Understandably, the Haitian community has been devastated by the sudden passing of Mikaben. The community has galvanized to honor him and support his family. Madam Speaker and everyone in this nation, please join me in honoring the life and legacy of legendary musician Michael “Mikaben” Benjamin.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE
FRANCES MUNOZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Frances Munoz, our nation's first Latina judge. Judge Frances Munoz died on October 17, 2022, of natural causes. She was 92 years old.

Judge Frances Munoz has the distinction of being the first Latina female appointed or elected to the bench in California and the first Latina female appointed or elected as a trial court jurist in the United States. She served for 23 years in the Orange County Municipal and Superior Courts and an additional 15 years as an Assigned Judge.

From humble beginnings, Frances was born at the height of the depression on September 18, 1930, the fifth of eleven children, in the mining town of Miami, Arizona. The family moved to Puritan, Colorado, and her father continued to work in the coal mines until the mines “played out.”

In 1941, the family moved to Corona, California, and joined the thousands of others working in farm labor. Frances and her siblings joined their parents in the fields during the summers picking tomatoes, grapes, and other crops in the Fresno area, sometimes sleeping outdoors.

Judge Munoz inspired her younger siblings to study and pursue higher education. After high school, she went to work selling furniture and she paid for the college expenses of her siblings.

Undaunted, Judge Munoz pursued her own education by attending night classes at Los Angeles City College, UCLA and law school while managing Atlas Furniture stores during the day. In 1972, Judge Munoz received her law degree from Southwestern University School of Law where she was a member of the Law Review.

She moved to Orange County, where her brother Greg, a graduate from USC law school, had opened a practice. (Greg later became an Orange County Superior Court judge and served alongside Frances on the bench.)

In 1972, Frances joined the office of the Orange County Public Defender, where she was the first Latina and the second woman to be hired in that office.

In 1974, she and several Latino attorneys established the Orange County Mexican-American Lawyers Club, which was later renamed the Hispanic Bar Association of Or-

ange County. One of their goals was to ensure that more Latinos, who were qualified and experienced, be appointed or elected to the bench. As a result of the efforts, today there are 19 Latino judges out of 124 Superior Court Judges on the Orange County bench and two Latino justices out of eight Appellate Court justices in Orange County.

On January 25, 1978, Governor Jerry Brown's office telephoned Frances Munoz to advise her that she had been appointed as a Judge in the Harbor Municipal Court in Orange County. She was not at her desk. She was in court representing a defendant in a felony jury trial.

As a Deputy Public Defender, she was known as a zealous advocate. But she was also noted for being civil with opposing counsel and respectful of the court. She was also acknowledged for creating and meticulously cataloging 3x5 cards in a small box. On each card she wrote out the facts and holding of the appellate court in key cases involving “furtive gestures,” “search of trunk,” and other criminal law issues. She would quickly retrieve a key citation during a motion or trial.

Within months of her appointment, she was opposed by a male Deputy District Attorney. Several Harbor Municipal Court judges, and multitudes of Orange County attorneys, court staff, bailiffs, police officers, and clergy rallied around her to host fundraisers and to support her in the retention election. Her ten brothers and sisters and their children and parishioners from her church, St. Joachim Catholic Church in Costa Mesa, canvassed neighborhoods to get out the vote. In that 1980 election, Judge Frances Munoz was retained with the largest plurality of votes of any challenged judge in the state. Four other judges in Orange County lost their seats that year. She was never challenged again.

In 1980 and 1990 she was elected the Supervising Judge of the Harbor Municipal Court and in 1990 was also recognized as the Outstanding Judge of the Year by the Orange County Women Lawyers Association. In 1976, she co-founded the Orange County Hispanic Education Endowment Fund which awards college scholarships to Latino scholars.

In 2001, Judge Munoz retired from the bench, but continued her public service as an assigned judge until 2016. She also served on the board of directors of THINK—Teaching, Helping, Instructing Kids and boards of other non-profit organizations.

Every Thursday she would tutor students at Santa Ana's Madison Elementary school. She was also a keen real estate investor who purchased several commercial and residential properties. She always accommodated nieces and nephews in her spacious Corona Del Mar home while they studied and earned their bachelors, masters or medical degrees at the University of California, Irvine.

Judge Munoz is survived by four sisters, Margaret Munoz, Vera Munoz-Harrison, Rosie Schirling, and Angie Quintana and 25 nieces and nephews and 45 great nieces and nephews.

Please join me in celebrating the long, accomplished life of Judge Frances Munoz. She will be remembered for her perseverance in the face of adversity, excellence as a law student, attorney and judge, for her lifetime dedication to public service and children's education, and for her compassionate and gracious spirit.

REMEMBERING MARGARET L.
JACUBEC PAVLOV

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Margaret L. Jacubec Pavlov, who passed October 26, 2022. She was 85 years old.

Margaret, affectionately known as "Peggy" and "Bam," was born on September 28, 1937, in East Palestine, Ohio, a daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth Gibb Gough, Jr. At the age of seven, she moved to Struthers and lived with her grandparents. Charles and Mary Gough, Sr., while her father was in World War II. Peggy was a graduate of Struthers High School and attended Kent State University for Journalism.

She married young and had four children, Elizabeth, Jill, Jon and Matthew. After her youngest child started school, she and her best friend, Margy Becker, opened a successful Struthers business, Phelan's Paint and Paper. Her humor and laughter were a part of the success of that business. She continued her career with other endeavors, becoming a real estate agent and interior decorating. Her final job was as the Office Manager for Total Care Psychological Services, where she made many lifelong friends. In 2020, she retired at the age of 83.

Among her many talents, her Christmas trees were decorated, displaying her artistic ability. She loved a good competition. If it be growing zucchinis or the Word Jumble on Sunday morning if you were up for it. She frequented New York City, going every year from the age of 18 to 82. When it came to music and movies, you could always find Sinatra or Elvis playing on her radio and good ole westerns playing on the TV starring John Wayne.

Peggy supported her four grandsons in their basketball and football high school and college years and softball for her only granddaughter, Jaelyn. She had an open-door policy for her homes for anyone to visit, stay and eat. Her last two homes were chosen because the swimming pools would be a place for friends and family to gather.

While attending a Struthers Wildcat Reunion, she reconnected, after 40 years, with her high school sweetheart, John Pavlov. They married and continued a loving relationship until John's passing in 2021. Whatever life threw her way, Peggy conquered with grace and a smile.

She was blessed with lifelong and loyal friends, Bernie Pavlansky, who comforted her every day with back rubs and stories shared of their escapades; Joanne Howard and her delicious food; Catherine and Ken Baker and their fun trips to Geneva on Halloween and New York City; Marion Creed and their weekly lunch; Mabel Creed who was an influential person in her life; Dan Becker and Dottie for being loyal and loving friends whom she loved dearly and all of her wonderful neighbors on Hamilton Blvd.

She leaves behind her four children, Elizabeth, Jill, Jon and his wife, Nancy, whom Peggy considered a daughter and Matthew; her loving siblings, Walt Gough and Phoebe Horvath; grandchildren, Nicholas, Nathan, Jacob, Jaret and Jaelyn; her friend and cous-

in, Ted Gough; nieces, Amy Cuffle and Jenni Chichka and her best buddy and four-legged companion, Wilson. In addition to her parents, Peggy was preceded in death by the father of her children, Richard "Jooks" Jacubec and father and mother-in-law, Emil and Nellie Jacubec.

HONORING IRL PORTER

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians, to recognize Iral Porter for her contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022. Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on July 28, 1896, date of the city's incorporation.

Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, Iral Porter's commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Iral Porter for her contributions to the community and her role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE FRALEY

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend Katie Fraley. She influenced countless students over four decades in the classroom and was an enthusiastic force in the civic life of the Taylorville community.

Katie worked to earn a master's degree in education from the University of Illinois by attending night school in Springfield and summer school in Champaign, while teaching school in Taylorville and raising her young daughter.

For nearly 40 years, she taught fourth grade at North Elementary School, where she arrived every day flamboyantly dressed and raring to go. She cared deeply about her students and took great pride in their accomplishments in the classroom and in all stages of their lives. She was known for directing the school's Christmas musicals, holding an annual Hawaiian luau, and instructing students in the fine art of assembling scrapbooks about Abraham Lincoln.

After 41 years in the classroom, Katie "retired", leaving teaching but not education. She was elected to three four-year terms on the Taylorville School Board. Her vision was for the school district to build a fine arts center, a goal that is now in early planning and fundraising phases. She was an energetic fixture in many facets of community life and was involved with the Taylorville First United Methodist Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the P.E.O., an international

women's education and advocacy organization.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Vance Fraley, of Taylorville, her children Karen, Lenae, Derek, and Lena, and many grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and countless former students who have said that she was an influential figure in their education and in their lives.

The Taylorville community won't be the same without Katie. Rest in Peace, my friend.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUILDING SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Building Skills Partnership (BSP) on 15 years of improving the quality of life of property service workers in low-wage industries, as well as their families and communities.

BSP is a non-profit organization founded with the vision of creating an equitable playing field for California's working families to succeed in their careers and educational endeavors. Born out of the Justice for Janitors movement that helped thousands of immigrant janitors achieve a more just way of living and working, BSP partnered with responsible businesses and employers to pilot its first workplace training, which focused on Vocational English language acquisition.

BSP programs serve 5,500 participants annually and focus on workforce development, immigrant inclusion, and community advancement. The organization offers career and education programs that enable workers' personal and professional success. Today, BSP represents a unique partnership between over 90 janitorial employers, over 60 commercial building owners, the Service Employees International Union-United Service Workers West (SEIU-USWW), and the broader community. With collaboration and a holistic approach to programming, BSP continues to strive to create an equitable future for working families to build a better life.

Thanks to BSP's dedication, BSP has expanded to seven major cities across California and broadened its programming to fully address the unique barriers immigrant janitors and their children face in realizing the benefits of social, civic, and economic integration.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the 15th anniversary of Building Skills Partnership.

HONORING CORNELIA "CORKY" DOZIER

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians, to recognize Cornelia "Corky" Dozier for her contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.